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**BOX AF**

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 2100

AF/2700

SC  
#16C (AF)  
6/19/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named  
Inventor : Simon H. Corston-Oliver et al.

Group Art Unit: 2175

Appln. No.: 09/336,200

Examiner: T. Pardo

Filed : June 18, 1999

For : SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE  
PERFORMANCE OF INFORMATION  
RETRIEVAL-TYPE TASKS BY IDENTIFYING  
THE RELATIONS OF CONSTITUENTS

RECEIVED

JUN 17 2003

Technology Center 2100

Docket No. : M61.12-0099

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL**

**Mail Stop AF**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
Sir:

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING  
SENT BY U.S. MAIL, FIRST CLASS, TO THE  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450,  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, THIS

9th DAY OF June, 2003  
*Matt M. J.*  
PATENT ATTORNEY

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on April 9, 2003. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of determining a relationship between first and second textual inputs, the method comprising:

obtaining a set of relations, the relations including grammatical relations or case;

identifying constituents in the first textual input that have the relations; and

determining the relationship between the first and second textual inputs based on the constituents identified.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step includes:

determining the relationship between the first and second textual inputs based on the relations.